

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Page 6, after the second paragraph at line 17, please insert the following as line 18 *et seq.*:**

The method for producing a catalyst composition of the present invention comprises the steps of preparing a pre-crystallization composition containing elementary components, the elementary components constituting a perovskite-type composite oxide containing a noble metal; mixing the pre-crystallization composition with a powder of theta-alumina and/or alpha-alumina to prepare a mixture; and subjecting the mixture to heat treatment.